

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983  
E-mail: sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/jacobs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug 6, 2008

Contact: Sen Gilda Z. Jacobs  
Phone: (517) 373-7888

## **SENATOR JACOBS WARNS RESIDENTS OF FAKE UNEMPLOYMENT WEBSITE**

*Sen. Jacobs: "...a deplorable consumer scam..."*

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today warned residents against using a fraudulent website that charges \$19.95 plus a bi-weekly fee to get unemployment benefits processed. Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency does not charge residents for collecting unemployment benefits.

"According to the state's Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), there is only one official website that unemployed workers should use when applying for unemployment benefits in Michigan, and that site belongs to the state's Unemployment Insurance Agency at [www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia)," said Sen. Jacobs. "This is a deplorable example of a consumer scam that preys on some of our most vulnerable citizens."

In fact, according to DLEG officials, the rules for collecting unemployment benefits preclude a third party reporting unemployment status, even if the site is legitimate.

While unofficial or fraudulent websites are often created to look official, their use can result in delaying benefits or facilitating identity theft. Potential users should never enter personal information in a non-state-sponsored site.

The new federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, along with the usual summer auto industry slow-downs, has caused a temporary backup in processing applications. Applicants are asked to demonstrate patience while the department copes with the new "emergency" caseload.

###

